

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00

CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTREAL 1433

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, EAIR, ICAO

SUBJECT: ICAO CONSIDERATION MICROWAVE LANDING SYSTEM

REF: DIAMANTI/MOREY BRIEFING MEMO SEPTEMBER 14

1. "AVIATION DAILY" OF SEPTEMBER 23 CONTAINS FOLLOWING ITEM (PAGE 26)
:

US MAY REJECT ICAO MICROWAVE LANDING SYSTEM DECISION. QUOTE:
FAA OFFICIALS SAID TUESDAY THE US MIGHT NOT ACCEPT AN
INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION DECISION ON AN INTER-
NATIONAL MICROWAVE LANDING SYSTEM IF ICAO CHOOSES THE BRITISH
DOPPLER SYSTEM. JEFFERSON COCHRAN, ACTING FAA DEPUTY
ADMINISTRATOR, SAID AT HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS THE US MIGHT
NOT ACCEPT THE DOPPLER SYSTEM UNLESS A RECENTLY DISCOVERED DEFECT
IN THE MULTIPATH PROGRAMMING IS POSITIVELY RESOLVED. THE MULTIPATH
PROBLEM WAS DISCOVERED RECENTLY DURING TESTING BY LINCOLN
LABORATORIES, AND IS CONSIDERED A "PRETTY SIGNIFICANT FLAW,"
ACCORDING TO A DAILY SOURCE. UK IS IN COMPETITION WITH US
AND AUSTRALIA, BOTH HAVING TIME REFERENCE SCANNING BEAM MLSS,
AND GERMANY, HAVING A NARROW BAND DME (DISTANCE
MEASURING EQUIPMENT) MLS. FRANCE HAD A SEPARATE MLS, BUT IS CON-
SIDERED OUT OF THE RUNNING FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION.

2. QUOTE: DAVID SHEFTEL, FAA DIRECTOR OF SYSTEMS RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICE, TOLD THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION AND
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TRANSPORTATION R&D THAT BEFORE FAA DISCOVERED THE DEFECT WITH

THE MULTIPATH, FAA WAS "FAIRLY AMBIGUOUS" ON WHICH OF THE SYSTEMS IT SUPPORTED. SINCE THE DEFECT HAS BEEN DISCOVERED, FAA IS STRONGLY BEHIND THE TRSB, HE SAID. ICAO'S ALL WEATHER OPERATIONS PANEL WORKING GROUP A WILL MEET IN LONDON NOV. 1 TO DISCUSS THE VARIOUS MLSS, AND SUBMIT A RECOMMENDATION TO ICAO'S AIR NAVIGATION COMMISSION THE SECOND WEEK OF FEBRUARY. ICAO IS EXPECTED TO CHOOSE AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM LATE NEXT YEAR.

3. QUOTE: SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DALE MILFORD (D-TEX.) SID THE BRITISH RECENTLY TOLD HIM THAT THE UK WILL NOT GO ALONG WITH AN ICAO DECISION IN FAVOR OF THE TRSB SYSTEM AND WOULD PROCEED TO IMPLEMENT THE DOPPLER SYSTEM REGARDLESS OF THE ICAO DECISION. REP. JOHN WYDLER (R-NY), RANKING MINORITY MEMBER SAID THE SITUATION "SOUNDS FISHY TO ME." WYDLER SAID HE IS CONCERNED THAT THE US MIGHT NOT ACCEPT AN INTERNATIONAL DECISION AND URGED FAA TO TEST FURTHER THE DOPPLER SYSTEM TO SEE IF THE US COULD RESOLVE THE ALLEGED DEFECT. CHCHHRAN SAID FAA WOULD CONSIDER TESTING THE DOPPLER SYSTEM ONLY IF THE UK ASKS FOR A TEST AND AGREES TO PARTICIPATE. WITHOUT UK PARTICIPATION, COCHRAN FEARS THAT THE TEST WOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS OBJECTIVE. FINAL DECISION BY ICAO IS EXPECTED LATE NEXT YEAR. UNQUOTE

4. IN RECENT MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN MILFORD OF HOUSE PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION CTE AND FAA OFFICIALS, USREP EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THIS KIND OF UNILATERAL ULTIMATUM WOULD NOT BECOME PART OF PUBLIC HEARINGS.

5. THE MLS DECISION IN ICAO IS ONE OF THE MOST MAJOR IN HISTORY OF ICAO. MLS WAS A US PROPOSAL, INCLUDING THE TIME FRAMEWORK. AT THE 7TH ANC IN 1972. THE PACKAGE WAS ACCEPTED BY ICAO AND HAS PROCEEDED ON SCHEDULE EXCEPT: (A) A SIX MONTHS POSTPONEMENT OF DEADLINE FOR FILING PROPOSALS (AT REQUEST OF GERMANY BECAUSE NEITHER GERMANY NOR US WERE READY TO MEET EXISTING DEADLINE -- JULY 1975); AND (B) THE SIX MONTHS POSTPONEMENT OF THE AWOP (OCT TO FEB) WHICH WILL BEGIN CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSALS (US CONCURRED IN THAT POSTPONEMENT).

6. IF USG IS NOT HAPPY WITH TIMING, IT SHOULD PROPOSE SOMETHING ELSE TO ICAO. (ANC CALLS PANEL MEETINGS).

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7. REP MEETINGS DURING CONSULTATION, AND SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS INDICATE THE LACK OF COORDINATION AT THE POLICY LEVEL REGARDING THE INTERNATIONAL ASPECT OF THIS VERY IMPORTANT PROJECT. AS USREP TO ICAO, I NEED TO KNOW ONLY WHAT OUR POSITION SHOULD BE IN ICAO. AT THIS POINT THE EXPERTS MUST ENDEAVOR TO WORK OUT THE TECHNICAL REPEAT TECHNICAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN DOPPLER AND TRSB, BUT FOR USG SPOKESMEN TO INDICATE PUBLICLY AT THIS POINT THAT US WILL NOT ACCEPT AN ICAO DECISION FOR DOPPLER SEEMS

UNFORTUNATE AND PREMATURE. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING, HOWEVER, THAT IF DEPARTMENT REPEAT DEPARTMENT TAKES THAT POSITION, USREP SHOULD KNOW IMMEDIATELY BECAUSE IT SERIOUSLY INFLUENCES US PARTICIPATION NOT ONLY IN ANY EFFORT REGARDING MLS, BUT OTHER MAJOR UNDERTAKINGS -- ESPECIALLY THOSE REQUIRING UK AND EUROPE GROUP COORDINATION SUCH AS TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON OZONE MONITORING, ENGINE EMISSIONS WORK GENERALLY AND NOISE (RETROFIT) MEETING IN NOVEMBER.

8. USREP WISHES REITERATE THAT US ALREADY IS RECEIVING GREAT DEAL OF CRITICISM FOR "UNILATERALISM" VS. ICAO IN OTHER AREAS. USREP HAS NO OBJECTION AT ALL TO MOVING IN THAT DIRECTION BUT WE MUST NOT CONTINUE TO MAKE A FARCE OF OUR MISSION TO ICAO AND OUR IMAGE HERE WITH RESPECT TO OUR US CIVIL AVIATION LEADERSHIP ROLE IN MULTILATERAL FORUM. WE CANNOT BE EFFECTIVE IN CARRYING OUT INSTRUCTIONS WHEN OFFICIALS PUBLICLY UNDERCUT INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS. PLEASE LET'S COORDINATE IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE OUR TREMENDOUS ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION.
HARPER

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